



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Wilmington District

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
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HEAVY RAINS CAUSE TEMPORARY CLOSING OF LAKES RECREATION

(Wilmington, NC) Due to high lake elevations at reservoirs operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers, many boat launching ramps and recreation areas have been temporarily closed. High water, debris, and strong currents make boating extremely hazardous.

Heavy rainfalls during the past several weeks have caused the rise in lake elevations.

“The reservoirs managed by the Corps were built primarily for flood control, so they are doing their jobs,” said Terry Brown, Water Control Manager for the Corps’ Wilmington District. “Protecting people and property downstream often times results in some inconveniences to the recreating public at the lakes.”

All five of the Wilmington District Corps lakes in North Carolina and Virginia are currently experiencing high water conditions. As a result, the following areas are affected:

1) John H. Kerr (Buggs Island) Reservoir (NC & VA) is 15 feet higher than “normal” elevation pool of 300 ft. mean sea level (msl):

- **Most boat ramps and parking lots are under water and CLOSED;**
- **Ramps open:** Bullocksville (NC); North Bend Area A (VA at Kerr Dam); Island Creek (VA); Occoneechee State Park (VA).
- **Campgrounds: *Corps-managed campgrounds***—Rudd’s Creek CLOSED; North Bend Park is partially closed—call 1-434-738-0059; Longwood Campground is partially closed—call 1-434-374-2711.
- ***NC State Parks at Kerr Lake***—Satterwhite Point and Nutbush Campgrounds PARTIALLY OPEN, all others closed.
Call 1-252-438-7791
- ***Occoneechee State Park (VA)***—OPEN (a few sites closed for high water);
Call 1-434-374-2210
- USACE John H. Kerr Visitor Assistance Center—1-434-738-6143
- **24-HOUR LAKE LEVEL INFORMATION: 1-434-738-6633 ext. 275**

2) Philpott Lake (Bassett, VA) is 4 feet over “normal” pool elevation of 973.5 feet mean sea level (msl):

- **Most boat ramps OPEN;** 2 closed at Salt House Branch and Goose Point

- **Campgrounds all OPEN**
- USACE Philpott Lake Visitor Assistance Center—1-276-629-2703

3) W. Kerr Scott Lake (Wilkesboro, NC) is 12 feet over “normal” pool elevation of 1030 feet mean sea level (msl):

- Wilkes Skyline Marina (private) CLOSED through weekend
- **Ramps—2 OPEN:** Visitor Assistance Center & Smithy’s Creek;
- **Campgrounds: OPEN**
- USACE W. Kerr Scott Lake Visitor Assistance Center—1-336-921-3390

4) Falls Lake (Raleigh, NC) is 11 feet over “normal” pool elevation of 251.5 feet mean sea level (msl):

- **NC State Park Ramps**—CLOSED
- **Campgrounds:** Holly Point Campground PARTIALLY OPEN
- ***FALLS LAKE RECREATION AREAS—1-919-676-1027***
- USACE Falls Visitor Assistance Center—1-919-846-9332

5) B. Everett Jordan (Moncure, NC) is 14 feet above “normal” pool elevation of 216 feet mean sea level (msl):

- **All Boat Ramps CLOSED (inoperable)**
- **NC State Park Campgrounds: CLOSED**
- **Crosswinds Marina CLOSED**
- ***JORDAN LAKE STATE RECREATION AREAS: 1-919-362-0586***
- USACE Jordan Visitor Assistance Center—1-919-542-2227

The high water at all reservoirs make boating, swimming, or any water-related activity hazardous. The public is urged to use extreme caution if you choose to be out on any of the lakes:

- Wear PFD or Life Jackets at all times while on or near the water.
- Use slow speeds when underway. Submerged objects can wreck your boat.
- Watch for floating debris and partially submerged objects.

Please visit the following websites for additional information:

www.saw.usace.army.mil

<http://epec.saw.usace.army.mil/roankerr.htm>